

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----063545 210720Z /21
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8740
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 8167

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC, PK
SUBJECT: REPROCESSING PLANT

1. ON AUGUST 20 I MET FRENCH AMB LEGOURRIEREC TO GET READOUT
ON HIS DELIVERY OF GISCARD LETTER TO MINSTATE AGHA SHAHI AUG 19.

2. LEGOURRIEREC READ ME PORTIONS OF ENGLISH VERSION OF
GISCARD'S LENGTHY LETTER WHICH LEGOURRIEREC TERMED THE MOST
EXTRAORDINARILY OBSCURE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS HE HAS EVER
ENCOUNTERED. IT IS FULL OF PIOUS SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP
AND CONTINUED COOPERATION IN MANY FIELDS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR POWER
GENERATION, BUT IT DOES NOT MENTION THE CONTRACT FOR THE
REPROCESSING PLANT. THERE ARE TWO REFERENCES TO REPROCESSING:

(A) A BRIEF RECITAL OF THE FRENCH PUBLIC STATEMENT OF LATE
1976 STOPPING EXPORT OF REPROCESSING PLANTS AND MATERIALS
(BUT CONVENIENTLY IGNORING FRENCH STATEMENT AT THAT TIME
EXEMPTING THE PLANT FOR PAKISTAN FROM THAT BAN) AND (B) A
MURKY REFERENCE TO INFCE STUDIES WHICH IT IS HOPE WILL
IN TIME LEAD TO SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS OF REPROCESSING
PROBLEMS.

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3. LEGOURRIEREC SAID AGHA SHAHI (SHAHNAWAZ AND NIAZ
NAIK ALSO PRESENT) AFTER REPEATED READINGS OF THE LETTER
OBSERVED THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY MENTION OF THE CONTRACT
FOR THE PLANT MUST MEAN THAT GISCARD WAS REFUSING TO
ACCEDE TO GENERAL ZIA'S REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF
FRENCH DECISION TO CANCEL, TO WHICH INTERPRETATION
LEGOURRIEREC ASSENTED. THE PAK SIDE FURTHER ASSERTED

THAT GOP COULD NUNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES AGREE TO ANY
LINKAGE BETWEEN INFCE STUDIES AND THE FUTURE OF THE
REPROCESSING PLANT.

4. LEGOURRIEREC IS CERTAIN THE PAKS UNDERSTAND THAT
CANCELLATION OF THE PLANT IS A FIRM FRENCH DECISION. HOWEVER,
NEITHER HE NOR I ARE CLEAR ABOUT THE NEXT MOVE. LEGOURRIEREC
THINKS HE MAY BE CALLED FOR A MEETING WITH GENERAL ZIA
WHERE HE WILL HAVE A HARD JOB PROVIDING ORAL EXEGESIS OF
THE ARTFULLY OBSCURE LETTER. HE STILL PREDICTS AHSRP
GOP RETALIATION INCLUDING CANCELLATION OF SAVIEM TRUCK
DEAN AND POSSIBLY RECALL OF PAK AMB FROM PARIS. HE
EXPRESSED POLITE HOPE THAT USG WILL NOT PREMATURELY
UNDERTAKE CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS THAT RUN RISK OF
PUBLIC SURFACING OF FRENCH CANCELLATION IN WESTERN
PRESS. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD NOT EMBARK ON RISKY
CONSULTATIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSION WITH GOF. WE AGREED
THAT PAKS SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO MAKE THE CANCELLATION
PUBLIC IN MANNER OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING, WHICH WE THOUGHT
MIGHT BEGIN IN NEXT FEW DAYS WITH GINGERLY EXPOSURE IN
EDITORIAL OF SOME ELEMENTS OF THE ISSUE.

5. I GAVE LEGOURRIEREC BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR RECENT TALKS
WITH SHAHI IN NEW YORK AND HERE IN WHICH I TOOK IT TO BE
A GOOD SIGN THAT THE PAKS ARE BARGAINING OVER TERMS (WHAT
KIND OF ASSURANCES IF ANY USG WILL REQUIRE BEFORE WE
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NORMALIZE US ASSISTANCE) RATHER THAN MAKING THREATS OR
DISPUTING US NONPROLIFERATION POLICIES.

6. LEGOURRIEREC ASKED MY VIEW OF RUMORS (APPARENTLY
STARTED IN INDIAN PRESS BUT KEP ALIVE HERE BY SOV AND
EE EMBOFFS) THAT THE PRC WILL BUILD A REPROCESSING PLANT
FOR PAKS IF FRANCE REFUSES. I TOLD HIM THAT PRC AMB
HAS TOLD ME THE PRC HAS NO SUCH PLANT ITSELF AND THEREFORE
LACKS CAPABILITY OF BUILDING ONE FOR PAKS. I WILL SEE
CHINESE AMB IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO SEE IF HE WILL EXPAND ON
THAT STATEMENT. HUMMEL

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